

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 08462 221341Z
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /003 W
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O. TAGS & SUBJ)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, SA
SUBJECT: OIL FIELD SECURITY PROPOSAL

FOR LAKE (S/P) FROM AMBASSADOR

1. REGRET DELAY IN ANSWERING YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 30.
FOLLOWING ARE MY COMMENTS ON YOUR PROPOSED PAPER ON OIL
FIELD SECURITY.
2. BELIEVE OIL FIELD SECURITY IS MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN
TO USG AS WELL AS SAG, AND AGREE THAT MUCH CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE
IT. ARAMCO ITSELF HAS BUDGETED \$60 MILLION FOR IMPROVED SECURITY
BASED ON RECENT SURVEY MENTIONED YOUR PAPER.
3. I QUESTION, HOWEVER, IMPLIED PREMISE OF PAPER--
ITS DISCLAIMERS OF SPECIFIC LINKAGES TO THE CONTRARY ASIDE--
THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE IN HELPING IMPROVE OIL FIELD SECURITY WILL
IMPROVE OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE SAG OIL PRODUCTION DECISIONS
IN FUTURE. AT BEST, SAUDIS LOOK UPON INCREASED OIL FIELD SECURITY

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AS SOMETHING WHICH IS AS MUCH IN OUR INTEREST AS THEIRS.
AT WORST, THEY MAY TAKE ANY ATTEMPT ON OUR PART TO LINK
OUR ASSISTANCE TO A CONTINUING CONSULTATION IN THEIR FUTURE PRO-
DUCTION DECISIONS AS AN UNWARRANTED TRESPASS ON THEIR SOVEREIGN
RIGHTS. I BELIEVE WE WOULD BE MOST UNWISE TO TRY TO PUSH ON ANY
FORMAL BASIS SUCH A LINKAGE ON THE SAUDIS. IT WOULD BE EQUALLY
UNWISE TO THINK THAT SUCH A LINKAGE COULD BE DEVELOPED BY

IMPLICIT MEANS EXCEPT AS POINTED OUT IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5.

4. WE CAN AND SHOULD CONSIDER WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP SAUDIS IN THIS FIELD, WITHIN REASONABLE SCOPE AND EXPECTATIONS. WE MAY WANT TO START FIRST WITH INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, AS SUGGESTED BY SAG, AND HELP IN SURVEY OF SECURITY NEEDS. WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS GOOD LIAISON NOW AND WITH APPOINTMENT OF PRINCE TURKI AL FAISAL AS CHIEF, THIS RELATIONSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE. WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, RESIST PUSHING FORWARD FASTER THAN SAG ITSELF WISHES, AND SHOULD AVOID COMMITMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL USG RESOURCES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME THAT MUCH OF THIS JOB COULD BE DONE BY AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR, THUS ELIMINATING USG VISIBILITY (WHICH MAY HAVE PARADOXICAL EFFECT OF INCREASING THREAT TO OIL FIELD FACILITIES) AND AVOIDING CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS. MOREOVER, DOD'S RECORD ON SECURITY INSTALLATIONS IN VIETNAM INDICATES THEY ARE NOT INFALLIBLE, AND I WOULD THINK IT UNWISE TO HAVE USG REPUTATION ON THE LINE IN CASE OF FAILURE.

5. A POSSIBLE POSITIVE STEP THAT CAN BE TAKEN BY USG IS TO INCLUDE AS A PART OF THE SANG MODERNIZATION PROGRAM SPECIAL TRAINING IN OIL FIELD PROTECTION. BG HUDACHECK HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND TELLS US THAT HE HAD ALREADY THOUGHT OF SAME AND HAS BEEN WORKING ON SUCH A PROPOSAL. HE WILL SUBMIT SAME TO US PRIOR TO SAUDIS. WE CAN THEN MAKE A DECISION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IT
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SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED TO THEM BY GEN. HUDACHECK. DEPENDING ON HIS DRAFT, WE MAY WISH TO GET ADDITIONAL EXPERT ADVICE FROM DOD AND/OR OTHER AGENCIES. IN MEANTIME, MISSION ATTEMPTING TO ASCERTAIN EXACT RESPONSIBILITIES OF SANG, VIS A VIS OTHER SAG AGENCIES, IN PROTECTING OIL INSTALLATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Litigation Codes:
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TAGS: ENRG, PINS, SA, ARAMCO
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